

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data reception/playback method for receiving and playing stream data including at least one of audio and video, said method comprising the steps of:

before receiving the stream data, requesting a transmitting end to transmit part or whole of a playback start position table including at least one position where data playback can be started from some midpoint in the stream data;

receiving the playback start position table;

selecting one playback start position from the received playback start position table;

requesting the transmitting end to transmit the stream data from the selected playback start position; and

receiving and playing the stream data which has been transmitted from the playback start position.

2. The data reception/playback method of Claim 1 wherein:

the playback start position table is stored in a file different from a file containing the stream data;

transmission of the file containing the playback start position table is requested to the transmitting end before reception of the stream data; and

the playback start position table is extracted from the received file containing the table.

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the playback start position table, the stream data, and information about the position of the playback start position table are stored in one file;

the information about the position of the playback start position table is extracted from the data of the file received;

the playback start position table is obtained from the received data.

5. The data reception/playback method of Claim 1 wherein:

when playing the stream data from some midpoint in the stream,  
transmission of the playback start position table is requested.

7. A data reception/playback apparatus for receiving and playing stream data including at least one of audio and video, said apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving data transmitted from the  
transmission apparatus in response to the transmission request;

playback means for playing the stream data;

wherein the transmission request sending means requests the transmission apparatus to transmit the playback start position table, the reception means receives the playback start position table, the transmission start position selection means selects a playback start position from the playback start position table, the transmission request sending means requests the transmission apparatus to transmit the stream data from the playback start position, the reception means receives the stream data, and the

8. A data reception/playback method for receiving and playing stream data including at least one of audio and video, wherein:

when data playback is to be restarted, a request for transmission restart is made to the transmitting end by restarting data reception from the lower communication protocol.

when receiving and playing plural stream data simultaneously by using plural connections which are individually controllable, if reception of stream data in a connection is delayed for a playback time, playback of all the stream data is halted, and a request for suspension of data transmission in the connections including stream data other than the stream data which is delayed in reception, is output to the transmitting end; and

when the quantity of the stream data which is delayed in reception exceeds a predetermined value, playback of all the stream data is restarted, and a request for restart of data transmission in the suspended connections is output to the transmitting end.

when the reception buffer monitor means detects that the quantity of the stream data which is delayed in reception exceeds a predetermined value, the playback means restarts playback of all the stream data, and the transmission request sending means requests the transmission apparatus to restart data transmission in the connection which is suspended.

transmission request reception means for receiving and analyzing a request for transmission stream data from the receiving end;

file selection means for selecting a file corresponding to the playback speed with reference to the playback speed/file mapping table stored in the playback speed/file mapping table buffer;

transmission means for transmitting the data of the file read by the file reading means.